

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape, likely in Prince Edward Island. The image shows a patchwork of fields, some of which are light-colored (possibly snow or bare earth) and others are darker (possibly grass or crops). A central cluster of buildings, including a large, light-colored structure with a tower or cupola, is visible. The entire scene is framed by a white border with rounded corners.

Prince Edward Island
Commission on
Electoral Reform

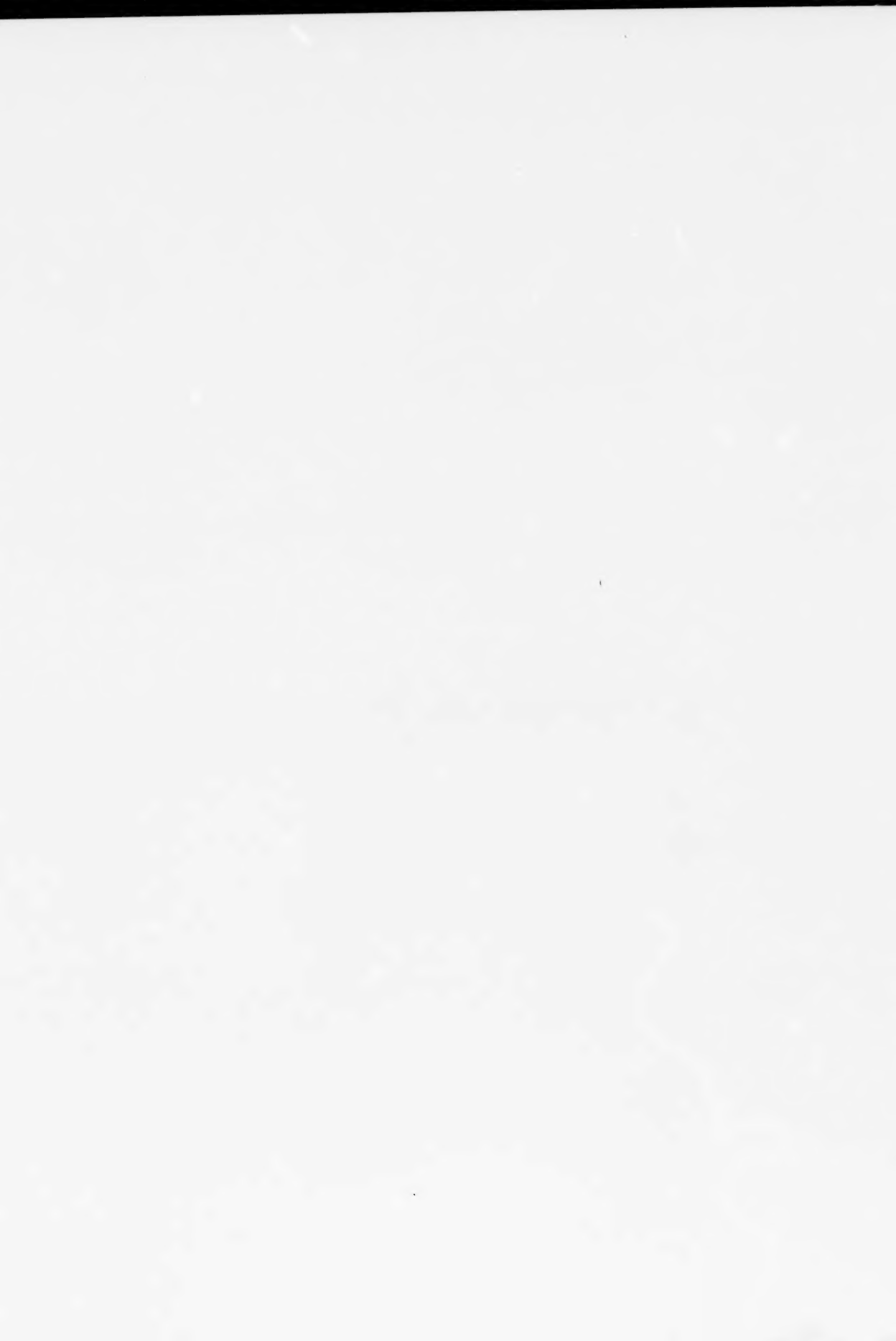


**THE
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
COMMISSION**

ON

ELECTORAL REFORM

APRIL 2003



Prince Edward Island now uses the First Past the Post (FPTP) Electoral System to elect the members of the Legislative Assembly. This system simply means that the candidate who gets the most votes is declared the winner even though such candidate may only have a plurality of the votes, that is, less than half of the votes cast, or he or she may have an absolute majority, that is, over 50% of the votes.

Questions are now being raised as to whether this system is adequate for the 21st century or whether it should be changed so the composition of the Legislative Assembly would more accurately reflect the will of the electors.

The Prince Edward Island Commission on Electoral Reform has been asked to look into this matter and determine whether you, the people of this Province, want any changes made to the present FPTP System. It is up to you to decide if there should be change and, if so, the nature of that change.

The Commission believes it is important that everyone is aware of how the FPTP System works and that you also become familiar with the other major electoral systems used around the world. It has, therefore, prepared this discussion paper on the Major Electoral Systems Found Around the World to help you better appreciate the different electoral systems and how the FPTP system fits in with these other systems.

The Commission has also developed four models in an effort to help everyone understand what the Prince Edward Island electoral system might look like if you are interested in changing the present FPTP System. These models are simply presented for discussion purposes and they are not intended as replacements for the present system. They are presented solely for the purpose of helping you understand how the present system might be changed in an effort to make the Legislative Assembly more representative of the way people actually vote and to ensure an effective opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

**PAPER
FOR
DISCUSSION PURPOSES
ON
THE MAJOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS
FOUND AROUND THE WORLD
AND
FOUR MODELS**

**COMPILED BY
THE ELECTORAL REFORM COMMISSION
OF
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

APRIL 2003

What is an electoral system?

An electoral system is the process by which people vote for individuals to represent them in the legislature or Parliament. It also determines how these votes are counted and how the winning members are determined.

Is there more than one kind of an electoral system?

Yes, there are many different kinds of electoral systems used around the world. These different systems can basically be split into nine main systems which, in turn, can be placed in three broad groups.

These three major groups are:

1. Plurality/Majority.
2. Proportional Representation.
3. Semi-Proportional.

The following is a brief description of these three major groupings and the various systems which are included in each group. It is important to note that some writers use different names than those used here but they are in fact referring to the same systems.

1. PLURALITY/MAJORITY

A main feature of the systems under this grouping is the fact that they almost always use single member districts. There are four main systems included in this group. They are:

- (a) First Past the Post (FPTP);
- (b) Alternative Vote (AV);
- (c) The Two Round System (TRS); and
- (d) Block Vote (BV).

(a) FIRST PAST THE POST (FPTP)

This system is sometimes called the Winner-Take-All System and it is used in Prince Edward Island and in all of Canada.

It simply means that the candidate who gets the most votes is declared the winner even though the winner may only have a plurality of the votes, that is, less than half the votes cast. The winner may only have one vote more than the candidate with the next highest total of votes. Some candidates get elected with less than 40% of the total votes cast in the District. Or the winner may have an absolute majority, that is, over 50% of the votes.

In the 1996 Provincial election, 10 of the winning candidates won their seats with less than 50% of the valid votes cast in their district.

In the last Provincial election held in 2000, five of the winning candidates won their seats with less than 50% of the valid votes cast in their district. In other words, they won their district by a plurality of the votes.

The other 22 winning candidates won their districts by getting more than 50% of the votes, that is to say, they won by a majority of the valid votes cast.

The International Idea Handbook of Electoral System Design states that FPTP is used in 70 of 211 countries. These include England, Canada, India, United States, 12 Caribbean nations, 2 Latin America countries, 10 Asian countries, and by many of the small nations of the South Pacific as well as African countries which were mostly former British colonies.

Some of the features of FPTP are:

1. It is easy to use and understand.
2. The ballot is simple. You vote for only one name on the ballot.
3. Vote counting is simple and expeditious.
4. It establishes a direct relationship between the elector and the MLA.
5. It usually leads to a majority government.
6. It favours the two-party system.
7. It generally prevents smaller third parties from winning seats.
8. It is easy to get rid of an unpopular government.
9. It can create artificial majority governments such as 1935, 30 - 0; 1989, 30 - 2; 1993, 31 - 1; and 2000, 26 - 1.
10. It under represents women and minorities.
11. It produces what many people call "wasted votes".
12. It can produce a weak opposition.
13. It tends to concentrate power in the executive branch of government.

Writers point out that it is difficult to find countries in the post 1945 era that have chosen FPTP as their electoral system. (India is an exception). They point out that none of the new democracies in Europe have adopted this system.

(b) ALTERNATIVE VOTE (AV)

The International Idea Handbook of Electoral System Design points out that the Alternative Vote (AV) System is a relatively unusual electoral system as it is not used in many countries. However, Australia does use it to elect its members to the House of Representatives. AV is a majoritarian system in that a candidate must receive a majority (over 50%) of the votes to be declared the winner. Electors are allowed to rank the candidates in order of their preference rather than merely choosing to vote for just one candidate. If a candidate wins an absolute majority of the votes ($50\% + 1$), the candidate is declared the winner. If a candidate does not have an absolute majority, then they use a different method of counting the votes. The candidate with the lowest number of first preferences is dropped from the counting and his or her ballots are then checked for their second preferences. These second preferences are then assigned to the rest of the candidates and they keep doing this until someone gets an absolute majority. A candidate must have an absolute majority of all the valid votes cast in order to win the seat. A plurality of the votes is not enough under this system.

So the two main differences between this system (AV) and FPTP are that a candidate must have an absolute majority of the votes ($50\% + 1$) to be declared a winner and the other is the fact that electors are allowed to rank the candidates in order of their preferences rather than just voting for one candidate as is the case in FPTP.

There will be less votes wasted under the AV system, as their second choice is used to determine the winner.

AV is the same as FPTP in that it is exclusive to single-member districts.

AV does not ensure greater proportionality, in fact, it is alleged by some that it can be less proportional than FPTP.

This system, however, does have the advantage of enabling supporters of third parties which have little hope of being elected to influence the election of the eventual winner by their second and later preferences.

The system does require a reasonable degree of understanding by the electors.

(c) TWO ROUND SYSTEM (TRS)

This system is sometimes called the Two-Ballot or the Run-Off System. This means that the election usually takes place in two rounds, often a week apart. The first round is conducted in the same manner as a normal FPTP election. If a candidate gets an absolute majority ($50\% + 1$) in the first round, then that candidate is declared the winner. If none of the candidates get an absolute majority on the first round, then a second round of voting is held, usually a week later—thus the name Two Round System.

This system is used in the Ukraine and their second round is a straight run off between the two highest vote getters in the first round. This means that the winning candidate has an absolute majority of the votes.

Other countries, such as France, can have more than two candidates in the second round and, if so, then the candidate who gets the most votes, not necessarily an absolute majority, in the second round is declared the winner.

This system is fairly expensive to use as it usually requires a second election.

Another problem is that generally less people vote on the second election day than during the first day.

(d) BLOCK VOTE (BV)

The Block Vote (BV) is much the same as FPTP except that it uses multi-member districts. Each elector has as many votes as there are seats to be filled in the district. The electors are usually free to vote for individual candidates regardless of party affiliation. In some of the countries that use this system, the electors can use as many votes as they wish. That is, they can just vote for one candidate if they wish, even though they can cast more than one vote.

If electors do in fact cast all their votes for the candidates of one party, as is often the case, then you get much the same results as you do under the FPTP system.

This system does not guarantee that the winning candidate will have an absolute majority of the votes and it does not take proportionality into consideration.

This system is used in such countries as Bermuda, Fiji, the Maldives and Kuwait.

2. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (PR)

Proportional Representation basically means that each party gets the same proportion of seats as the proportion of votes it received in the election. So, if Party A

received 60% of the popular vote, it would get 60% of the seats. If Party B got 30% of the popular vote, it would get 30% of the seats. If Party C got 10% of the popular vote, it would get 10% of the seats.

There are many PR systems and they are based on multi-member districts. These multi-member districts may vary in size. In fact, both Israel and the Netherlands are single multi-member districts for election purposes.

In some PR systems, the seat distribution is determined by the overall national vote, as in the Netherlands and Israel. In other PR systems, the seats are allocated within regionally-based, multi-member districts as is the case in Germany, Scotland, Finland and Switzerland.

Electors usually do not choose among individual candidates, they are more likely to just vote for the party.

They normally cast a single vote for a list of candidates nominated by the party but some systems do allow electors to change the order of the list.

There are three main systems under this group. They are:

- (a) List PR
- (b) Single Transferable Vote (STV)
- (c) Mixed Member Proportional (MMP)

(a) LIST PR

Most of the PR systems use some form of List PR. This means that each party presents a list of candidates to the electors. The electors actually vote for a party rather than an individual candidate. The list of candidates may or may not be shown on the ballot, just the names of the parties. In some countries, the list of candidates is shown on the ballot and the elector may be allowed to give his or her preference as to individual candidates, although the candidates that the elector votes for must be on the same party list. The number of seats each party receives is proportional to the share of the national vote it receives. The winning candidates are taken from the list in the order that their names appear on the list. This system is designed to produce greater proportionality in translating votes into seats. All the votes count because of the way the PR System works.

Israel and the Netherlands are two countries which use the present form of List PR as the entire country forms one district or constituency. Israel elects 120 members to its Knesset. The first name on the party list is usually the leader of the party and will be the first member of that party to be elected. The elector votes for a party, so in effect, you vote for the list and not for a particular candidate. The seats are basically distributed by the overall national vote.

A threshold is used to determine whether a particular party is entitled to receive any seats. The threshold is the minimum level of support a party must receive to have any of its candidates elected. It is usually expressed as a percentage of the vote and in Israel it is 1.5%. At present, twelve different parties are represented in the Israeli Knesset and theirs is a coalition government.

The threshold is much higher in other countries, and 5% is used by some. It

can go as high as 10%, as is the case of the Seychelles.

The two main disadvantages of List PR are that it has a tendency to produce coalition governments, and it does not provide a strong geographical link between a member and the electors.

(b) SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE (STV)

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system uses multi-member districts and the elector ranks the candidates in order of preference in the same manner as is done in the AV system. It is not really a pure PR System, but it does produce a more diverse legislature.

The STV system means that each ballot has a value of one vote and it moves among candidates as determined by the elector's preferences. Electors vote for candidates and not the party. This means that independents can run.

Electors are given a ballot listing all the candidates for the district in which the elector casts his or her vote. The elector then ranks the candidates in order of preference by placing a 1 beside their favorite candidate and then they can continue to indicate their preferences by ranking as many candidates as they like by placing 2, 3, 4, etc. beside their names on the ballot. The electors do not have to vote along party lines as they can vote for whatever candidate they prefer. The STV system therefore enables electors to choose among individual candidates instead of the party list or one party.

The preferences indicated on the ballot are then counted and the winners are elected by use of a mathematical formula.

This system provides a means of ensuring proportional representation while still allowing people to vote for individual candidates. It has been used in the Republic of Ireland since 1921 and was established to protect the country's religious denominations. It has also been used in Malta since 1947 and is used in Tasmania for its House of Assembly.

It appears that the STV is only used in countries where there has been British rule.

The counting of the ballots under this system is excessively complicated and it is quite possible that very few electors really understand how it is done.

There does not appear to be any problems with the ability of people to cast their vote using this system.

(c) MIXED MEMBER PROPORTIONAL (MMP)

The Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system is a combination of the FPTP system and the PR system. It attempts to combine the positive points of these two systems. Some of the members are elected by the FPTP system, and the remainder of the members are elected by the PR List system. It is important to understand that there are many different models of MMP used around the world and the number of members that are elected using the FPTP system and the number of members that are elected from the PR List system can vary from country to country.

The electors have two votes under this system. They vote for their local member using the FPTP system in single member districts and they also vote for the party by using regional or national party lists.

You determine who gets elected by the FPTP system first. Then each party is entitled to the number of seats in the legislature that produces a proportional result based on the party or list vote. So if Party A is entitled to 100 seats in the Legislature because of its percentage of the party vote, and it actually received 105 seats by the FPTP system, it keeps the 5 extra seats it got but it does not get any list seats. If Party B is entitled to 70 seats in the legislature and it only gets 50 seats by the FPTP system, it would then get 20 List seats to give it a total of 70 seats.

This system was put in place in West Germany by the occupied powers in 1949, and variations of it have been adopted by many countries since then. It is basically the same system as has been adopted by New Zealand, Italy, Scotland and Wales in just the last few years.

Germany elects its Bundestag, the lower house of its parliament with the MMP System. The Bundestag consists of 656 members and one half of these are elected from single member constituencies, while the other half are from state party lists. Each elector has two votes. The elector votes for a member of choice from the constituency and also votes for a Party List. This system works like PR, as it gives each party a percentage of seats based on the percentage of votes it received while at the same time it keeps the advantage of single member districts.

New Zealand adopted this system in 1993 and the first election under this system was held in 1996. New Zealand has 120 members in its Parliament. 67 of these seats are filled with Members elected from single member districts by the FPTP system, and the remainder are elected from the party lists. Each elector has two votes. The elector votes on one ballot for the member of his/her choice from the district and the elector also votes on a second ballot for a party list. The electors are allowed to vote for a member from one party

and then vote for a different party in the party vote. Each party is basically entitled to as many seats in the Parliament as the percentage of party votes it received on a country wide basis. So, if Party A got 40 seats on the FPTP system and it received 30% of the Party vote, it would be entitled to 36 seats. In this case, Party A will not get any seats from the party list but it is allowed to keep its 4 extra seats. If Party B got 20 seats on the FPTP system and it received 60% of the party vote, it would be entitled to 72 seats or 52 seats from its party list. If Party C got 7 seats on the FPTP system and it received 10% of the party vote, it would be entitled to 12 seats or 5 more from its party list. A Party must win at least 5% of all the party votes or win at least one district seat in order to receive any of the List seats. So, this is the New Zealand Threshold.

Scotland and Wales each adopted this system in 1999 when they were given their own Parliaments by Westminster.

Scotland has 129 members in the Scottish Parliament. 73 of these members are elected from single member districts by the FPTP system and they use the same district boundaries as they use to elect their members to the Westminster Parliament in London. 56 of the 129 members are elected from 8 regions and each region has 7 members. These 56 members are elected from party lists in each region. So each elector has two votes, one for his or her district member and a party vote for the regional list members.

The MMP system keeps the proportionality benefits of PR systems and it keeps the benefits of the FPTP system in that electors have their own member. The MMP system also gives electors more choice as each elector has two votes, one for his or her local member and one for the party.

Some of the features of the PR System are:

1. There are no wasted votes as all votes count.
2. It produces a more diverse legislature.
3. More women candidates get elected.
4. It makes it easier for third parties to elect members.
5. It produces an effective opposition.
6. It also provides for a government in waiting.
7. It promotes greater participation by the electorate and produces a larger voter turnout.
8. It can produce coalition governments.
9. It can result in an increase in the number of parties and can cause political instability.
10. The geographical link between an MLA and a district is removed.
11. The ballot is not as simple and straightforward.

3. **SEMI-PROPORTIONAL (SP)**

The third and last of the three major groups is called the Semi-Proportional group. It includes the electoral systems which usually provide results that fall somewhere between the proportionality of PR systems and the disproportionality of the Plurality-Majority Systems. These systems use both PR Lists and FPTP districts but they do not compensate for any disproportionality in the districts.

The two most common systems under this group are:

- (1) **Parallel System** (PS), and
- (2) **The Single Non-Transferable Vote** (SNTV).

(1) PARALLEL SYSTEM (PS)

Parallel systems use both PR Lists and FPTP districts but the PR Lists do not compensate for any disproportionality within the districts. Russia uses the Parallel System to elect members of its Duma, the popular assembly. There are 450 members and one half is elected by PR, while the other half is chosen in single member plurality districts (FPTP).

The balance between the number of PR seats and the number from FPTP varies greatly from country to country which uses this system. For example, Russia has a 50/50 split, while Japan is 62.59% FPTP, and 37.59% PR.

The PS gives the electors two votes, a district member vote and a party vote on the national level.

One disadvantage of this system is that some parties may not win any seats even though they get a substantial number of votes.

(2) THE SINGLE NON-TRANSFERABLE VOTE (SNTV)

Each elector has just one vote under this system but it uses multiple member districts. The larger the number of seats in the district, the more proportional the system becomes but it does not guarantee proportional results.

The candidate with the most votes gets elected. Candidates of the same party compete against each other in the same district.

This system was used for Japan's lower house elections from 1948 to 1993.

It is used today in Jordan and Vanuatu.

This system is easy to use and easy to count ballots.

Most of the above information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/es/esd01.htm>

One needs to keep in mind that every system has its good points and its defects. The trick is to find a system that best suits the particular needs of a jurisdiction.

If one can detect a particular trend it would likely be that it keeps a degree of district representation by using FPTP system and, at the same time, it does not use strict proportionality but uses some sort of a corrective mechanism to ensure some proportionality or better overall representation.

MCDEL #1

This model would keep single member districts as we now have and it uses FPTP to elect all the members. It will also provide an element of proportionality as it would ensure at least four opposition members.

So assume there are 27 MLA's as we now have:

- 18 of the MLA's would be elected in single member districts by FPTP,
- 9 of the MLA's would be elected by a Province wide vote by FPTP. Their names would be put forward by party lists with a maximum of 5 names from each Party. This would ensure that the opposition would have at least 4 seats.

Each elector would have up to 10 votes on election day. Each elector would vote for the candidate of choice in his or her district as you do now, and then each elector would also be able to cast up to 9 votes for the candidates to be elected on a Province wide basis.

Since a party can only run a maximum of 5 candidates for these 9 seats, the opposition is assured of getting at least 4 of these seats.

These 9 candidates are elected by using the FPTP system and the 9 candidates with the highest vote totals are elected. You do not use percentages of popular vote in this model to elect the 9 list candidates as they are elected in the same manner as everyone else by FPTP.

TEN VOTES

Will the electors be confused with so many votes? Probably not, as it allows

the electors to cast their votes directly for the people they want to represent them and still provide some proportionality. This system should enable electors to get involved in the election process as there is no indirect method being used to elect members.

WHERE DO THE LIST NAMES COME FROM?

Each of the parties would provide a list with a maximum of 5 names. These names would come from across the Island in a manner determined by each party, and they would be listed alphabetically on the ballot with each candidate's address and party affiliation.

DISTRICT SIZE

Eighteen districts across the Province instead of the present twenty-seven districts will increase the average number of electors per district from 3,485 in 2000 to 5,200. Some people think the present figure of 3,485 is too small and allows a few electors in the district to change the result.

LIST CANDIDATES

The list candidates would have to campaign on a Province wide basis and the candidates from the same party would be campaigning against one another.

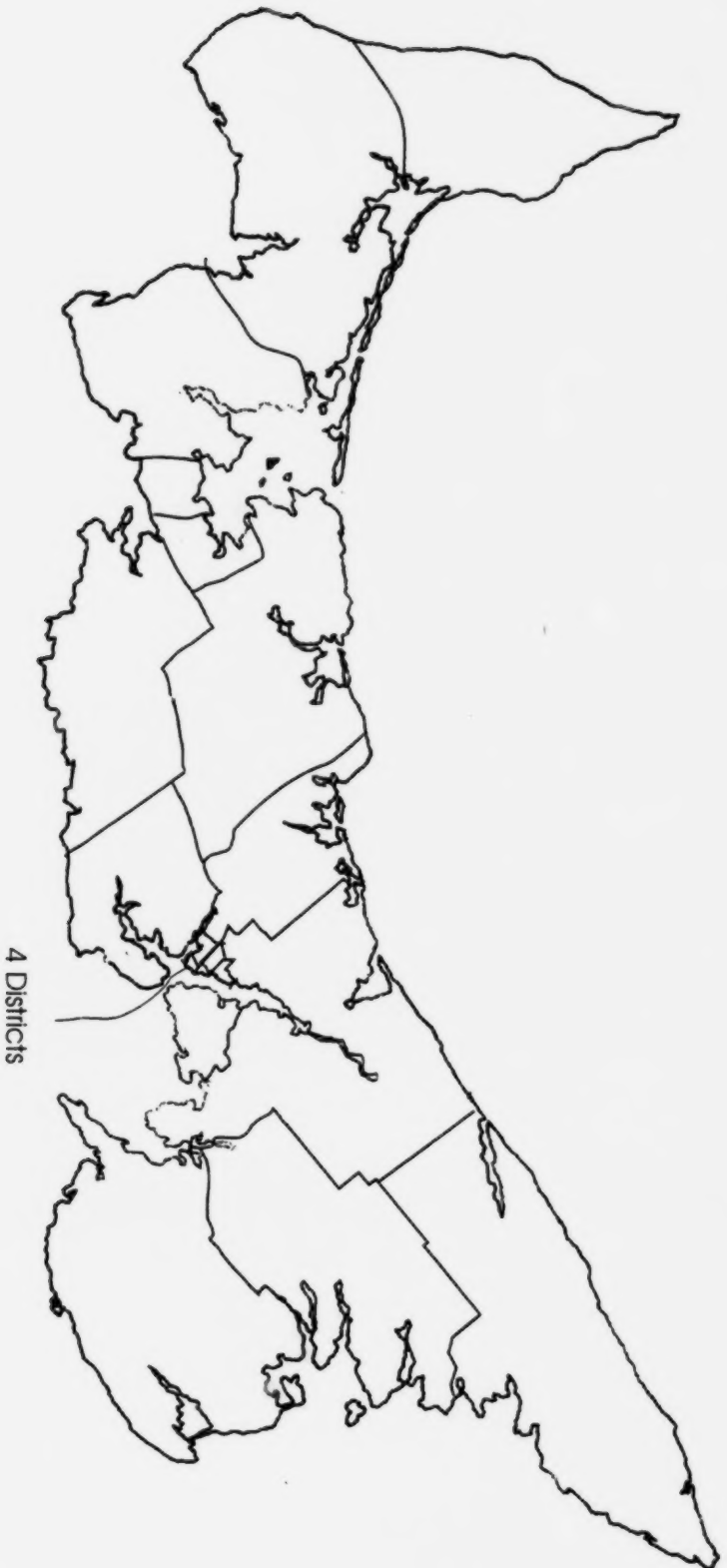
Candidates probably should not be allowed to run as a candidate for one of the 18 single member districts and also run for one of the 9 list seats. They would have to nominate for a district seat or for a list seat.

MAP

The following map will give you an indication of what Eighteen Districts might look like.

Prince Edward Island
Electoral Reform Commission

Model No. 1



MODEL #2

This model would keep single member districts as we now have and it would provide an element of proportionality as it would ensure that some opposition members are elected.

So assume there are 27 MLA's as we now have:

- 20 of these MLA's would be elected in single member districts by FPTP as they all are now.
- 7 of these MLA's would be elected from Party Lists according to the percentage of the Island wide popular vote each party receives.

WHERE DO THE NAMES ON THE LISTS COME FROM?

The question obviously is asked, how do you select the names for the party lists? It will be up to the parties to select these names but different options could be considered as to how this will be done.

One approach is to leave it up to the individual parties to provide a list. The names on the list would come from across the Island in a manner determined by each party. The names on the list would be ranked from 1 to 7 or however many names the party chooses to place on its list.

VOTING FOR FPTP CANDIDATES

Each elector would vote for the candidate of his or her choice in his or her District as they do now.

These 20 district members will be elected on the FPTP system in the same manner as the 27 MLA's are now elected.

HOW DO THE LIST MEMBERS GET ELECTED?

Each elector on election day would have a second vote. This second vote would be a vote for a party. This party vote would then be used to determine each party's percentage of the Island wide popular vote. You would use these percentage figures to determine how many of the 7 list seats each party gets.

For example:

In the 2000 Provincial election, the Conservatives got 58% of the popular vote, the Liberals got 34% of the popular vote and the NDP got 8% of the popular vote. So:

Conservatives would get 58% of 7 = 4 members

Liberals would get 34% of 7 = 2 members

NDP would get 8% of 7 = 1 member

So the first four candidates on the Conservative party list would be elected, the first two candidates on the Liberal list would be elected and the first name on the NDP list would be elected.

These seats are added to the number of seats each party received from the 20 FPTP seats to get the total party representation.

The two votes gives the elector more choice as it allows the elector to vote for the candidate of choice and the party of choice which may or may not be the same.

OR

Another possible way to select these 7 list candidates would be to just give each elector one vote on election day. The elector would vote for the candidate of choice in their districts as they do now.

Then after all the votes are counted across the Island for the 20 FPTP numbers you would determine each party's percentage of the Island wide popular vote and use these percentage figures to elect the 7 list members.

This way does not give the elector the opportunity to vote for a Candidate of one party and then cast a vote for a different party.

OR

Another possible approach is to select these 7 list members from a list of the defeated district candidates of each party that qualifies for one or more of these 7 seats. Each party would be responsible to select the list of defeated candidates that would form this list.

One disadvantage of this approach is that you would not have any idea of the names that might appear on the list until after the election is over. All you would know is that these list candidates were nominated in the same manner as all the other candidates and that they campaigned in the same fashion as everyone else. This approach would enable the parties to elect candidates in areas where they did not win any seats.

THRESHOLD

A threshold figure can be used to ensure that a party must have obtained a certain percentage of the popular vote in order to get any of the 7 list seats. This figure usually ranges somewhere between 1 and 10%.

RESULTS

These figures used here do not produce a very proportional result but they do ensure that the opposition will have some seats.

There are different ways of providing a larger opposition as the closer the number of FPTP seats and the number of list seats are to one another, the more proportional are the results.

It is also possible to have a rule that says if one party gets a certain number of the FPTP seats then it does not participate in the list seats. For example, if the winning party wins 17 or more of the FPTP seats, then the 7 list seats all go to the opposition parties.

This would ensure that the opposition could have as many as 10 seats or as few as 7 seats.

BY ELECTION

If a list seat candidate was to resign for any reason, the seat could be filled from the next name on the list without any by-election.

PARTY LEADERS

The party leaders could be the first names on the lists if each party was allowed to participate in the lists seats.

DISTRICT SIZE

Twenty districts across the Province instead of the present twenty-seven districts would increase the average number of electors per district from 3,485 in 2000 to 4,700. Some people think the present figure of 3,485 is too small and allows a few electors in the district to change the result.

LIST CANDIDATES

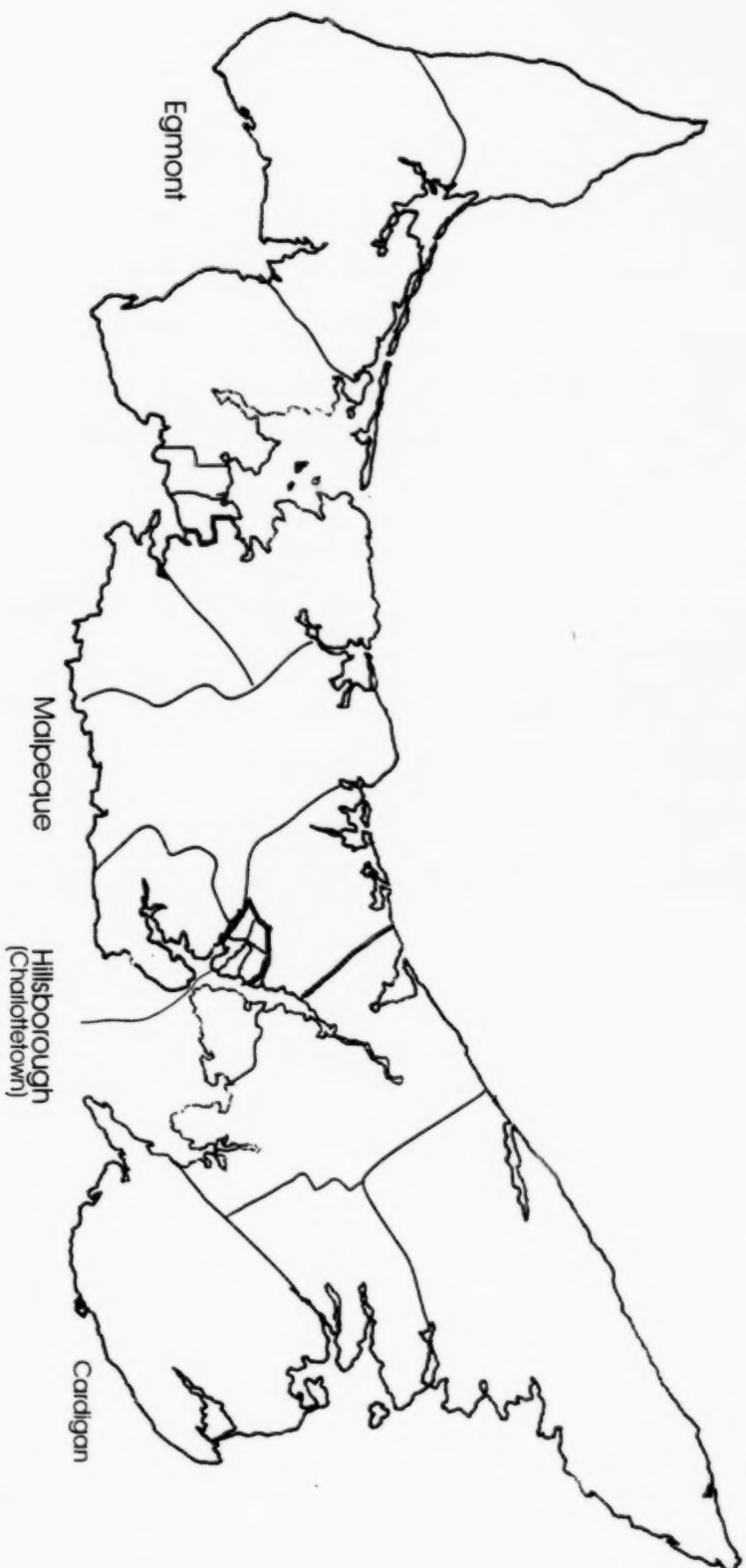
The candidates elected on the list side would have to campaign depending on how the lists are prepared. If they are prepared on a Province wide basis, then they would have to mount a Province wide campaign. If the list is made up of defeated candidates, then these candidates would have campaigned in the normal manner during the election.

MAP

The following map will give you an indication of what twenty districts might look like.

Prince Edward Island
Electoral Reform Commission

Models No. 2 & 3



MODEL #3

This model is based on the boundaries of the 4 Federal districts.

The 2003 Report of the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission of Prince Edward Island proposes four Federal districts with population variances within $\pm 5\%$ as shown in the following table.

Federal District	2001 Population	Variance	Approximate No. of Electors
Cardigan	34,777	2.82%	25,735
Charlottetown	32,245	- 4.67%	23,861
Egmont	35,208	4.09%	26,054
Malpeque	33,064	- 2.25%	24,467
TOTAL:	135,294		100,117

So, if one started with these 4 regions and divided each region into 5 Provincial districts, you would have 20 single member districts across the Province and these 20 members would be elected by the FPTP in the same manner as the present members of the Legislative Assembly are elected.

Then each party would nominate two candidates from each of the 4 regions to a Province wide party list and the party would rank the 8 candidates on the party list.

The electors would have a second ballot on election day and they would vote for the party of their choice. This party vote would then be used to allocate the 8 seats.

For example:

In the 2000 Provincial Election, the Conservatives got 58% of the popular vote, the Liberals got 34% of the popular vote and the NDP to 8% of the popular vote. So,

Conservatives would get 58% of 8 = 4

Liberals would get 34% of 8 = 3

NDP would get 8% of 8 = 1

This would mean that the first four candidates on the Conservative party list would be elected, the first three candidates on the Liberal party list would be elected and the first name on the NDP list would be elected.

These seats are added to the number of seats each party received from the 20 FPTP seats to get the total party representation.

THRESHOLD

A threshold figure could be used to ensure that a party must have obtained a certain percentage of the popular vote in order to get any of the 8 list seats. This figure usually ranges somewhere between 1 and 10%.

One advantage of this model is that it allows the electors to use the exact same polls to vote in both the Provincial and Federal elections so the people know where to go to vote.

This model gives each elector two votes, one for the candidate of choice in his/her district and a party vote.

This model may provide a better balance of representation from rural vs. urban electors.

LIST CANDIDATES

The list candidates would probably do most of their campaigning in their region but should campaign across the Province as they get elected as a result of the Province wide party vote.

MAP

The map shown after Model 2 will give you an indication of what twenty districts might look like.

MODEL # 4

This model would have 14 dual member districts with one-half of the 28 MLAs elected by proportional representation, and one-half elected by FPTP.

- 14 MLAs would be elected in 14 dual member districts by FPTP.

- 14 MLAs would be elected from the same 14 dual member districts assuming that they are from a registered political party. These seats would be distributed proportionally to the parties according to their province-wide percentage of the popular vote.

HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS ELECTED PROPORTIONALLY?

In each district, electors cast two votes on the same ballot. That means that two candidates from the same party can run in the same district. Independents can run as well, although the only chance they have in an election is to win using FPTP. In each electoral district, the person with the most votes is elected as a FPTP MLA. The remaining MLAs are elected proportionally. The total number of votes cast for each party province-wide is added, and the parties' percentages translate into seats. For example, if parties A, B, and C contest an election, here is what would occur. If party A receives 50% of the popular vote, it receives 7 of the proportional seats; party B with 35% would have 5, and party C with 15% would have 2 seats. Each electoral district elects one proportional member. Seats are awarded on a rotational basis beginning with party A, followed by party B and Party C.

Proportional Seats:

Seat # 1 -Awarded to Party A since they had the most votes province-wide. This is the first of 7 proportional seats for Party A.

-Awarded to the Party A candidate who had the highest percentage of votes in comparison to the Party A candidates in the other 13 districts, but was not elected using FPTP. Whichever district this proportional candidate represents is now filled, leaving 13 districts to be decided.

Seat # 2 -Awarded to Party B since they had the second most votes province-wide. This is the first of 5 proportional seats for Party B.

-Awarded to the Party B candidate who had the highest percentage of votes in comparison to the Party B candidates in the other 12 remaining districts, but was not elected using FPTP.

- Seat # 3 -Awarded to Party C since they had the third most votes province-wide. This is the first of 2 seats for Party C.
- Awarded to the Party C candidate who had the highest percentage of votes in comparison to the Party C candidates in the other 11 remaining districts, but was not elected using FPTP.
- Note -The rotation continues {A, then B, then C} in this order, and each party is eliminated from the rotation when its number of proportional seats have been filled.

This type of an electoral system ensures that each district elects the most popular candidate as a First Past the Post MLA. Each of the 14 districts has one representative who is elected using First Past the Post. Meanwhile, the proportional seats are characterized by the following:

1. The percentage of the province-wide vote that the parties receive translates into the percentage of the 14 proportional seats to which they are entitled.
2. The allocation of the seats to party candidates depends on the popularity of the party, and of the candidates that were not elected by First Past the Post.
3. This system ensures the election of a larger opposition than at present.

This electoral system also provides the following:

1. Larger electoral districts which diminish the potential for single-issue candidates being elected.
2. Promotes candidates that represent individual districts, and is more responsible to local citizens and concerns than province-wide party lists.

MAP

The following map will give you an indication of what fourteen Dual Member districts might look like.

Prince Edward Island
Electoral Reform Commission

Model No. 4



You may find the following references helpful in trying to understand the various electoral systems and how they work.

1. The International Idea Handbook of Electoral System Design, Andrew Reynolds and Ben Reilly, 1997, Information Services, International Idea, S-10334 Stockholm, Sweden.
2. Making Every Vote Count: Reassessing Canada's Electoral System. Edited by Henry Milner, 1999, Broadview Press, Ltd.
3. Citizenship and Democracy - A Case for Proportional Representation, Nick Loenen, 1977 Dundurn Press, Toronto.
4. Power to Elect. The Case for Proportional Representation, Enid Lakeman, 1982, William Hunemann Ltd., London, England.
5. Electoral Reform for Prince Edward Island, A Discussion Paper by J. Andrew Cousins, 2000, Institute of Island Studies, U.P.E.I. www.upei.ca/%7Eiis/rep-jac2.htm
6. Report on Proportional Representation by Elections Prince Edward Island
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/election>
Also available from Elections P.E.I.

